NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

East Kent Workhouse.—The guardians being dissatisfied with the manner in which the contractors have built the new workhouse, Mr. Fowler having been asked to report on the subject has done so, and after pointing out various incidental defects as to pointing, &c., and some others, he says,—"I think it right to observe that there were no proper working-drawings to show the various details of the construction, so as to insure a correct execution of the work. The only drawings were those upon which the contract was founded, and they are at the small scale of ⅛inch to 10 feet: also very few dimensions are figured upon them. The specification is very copious, but not clear or exact in many important particulars. It further appears that no clerk of the works was employed to superintend the erection of the buildings, as contemplated and provided for in the conditions annexed to the specification. Under all these circumstances it may be fairly presumed that many of the defects are owing to a want of superintendence, rather than any intention of the builders to save expense in materials or labour. That although the contractors are not thereby exonerated from the due fulfilment of their contract, yet it may be worthy the consideration of the guardians, that so far as they have failed to make use of the proper and customary means to protect their own interests, they have not so good a ground for penal proceedings against the builders, should such be contemplated." The reporter also says,—"With respect to the instructions of the board on the 10th of June that I should report upon the comparative values of the works *as they are*, and *as they ought to have been* executed, I beg to say, that if the builders be allowed (as I have suggested) to reinstate all such defects as can be made good, there will be very little matter to which such valuation can apply excepting the brickwork; and I do not see how the *extent* of the defects in the internal construction of the walls, &c., can be ascertained and estimated, unless by cutting into every part, more or less, to disclose the actual state and condition; a process which would be attended with great inconvenience, probably much beyond the amount at issue. That after all it would only be an *ex-parte* proceeding, and not binding or conclusive; therefore I would recommend as the preferable course, that if there be any dispute on this point, it should be at once referred to arbitration."

Dover.—The local Gaslight and Coke Company have given notice that, for the purpose of facilitating the more general use of gas in private houses, shops, &c., they have reduced their price to all who burn by meter, so that, deducting ten per cent. for prompt payment, the net price will be 6s. per 1,000 cubic feet. A correspondent of the *Dover Chronicle* throws great discredit on the meters in use.

Ventnor.—Since the erection of the esplanade, which is 1,000 feet in length, the reclamation of a pier and harbour at Ventnor has become a popular subject, and there are projects on the tapis for either a floating breakwater or fixed works.

Newport.—A new gas company have commenced preparations in the Marsh for the erection of their manufactory, the plans of which have been open for public inspection. We understand, says a Hampshire contemporary, that Mr. T. W. Stratton, architect, has been appointed to the office of surveyor, and that Messrs. Fox and Henderson are the successful contractors for the iron work. The whole of the works are to be finished and in operation by the 1st of January, 1852, and the public lamps lighted and tested, the contractor having engaged to furnish a pure and efficient supply, the quantity and quality to be unexceptionable, and its brilliancy to be sufficient to enable the leader of a newspaper to be read at 15 feet distance. It is said to be Sir William Hilary who has agreed to light the town with 140 lamps of superior gas all the year round for 280*l.*, while the present company has been charging 264*l.* for lighting eighty lamps but eight months in the year.

Clifton.—A communication, says the *Gloucester Chronicle*, took place lately between the trustees of the suspension bridge undertaking and Mr. Brunel, as to the probability of its long-promised completion, when Mr. B. undertook to provide 3,000*l.* to defray their existing liabilities, and to provide a person to complete the bridge, retaining the tolls of the work when finished, to repay the additional cost. The proposition is still in abeyance, owing to a difference of about 500*l.*

Chester.—Some workmen employed in digging a cellar near the Exchange, says the local *Courant*, have exposed several large blocks of stone at the depth of eight feet, and among them one with an ancient inscription, which induced the proprietor to preserve it. It was sent to the rectory of St. Mary's, and turned out to be a portion of an altar, with a legend in Greek characters, which described it as having been dedicated to certain genii and preservers of man, by one Hermogenes, a physician, who seems to have exercised his profession in the Roman army at Chester, as there were several tiles near it stamped with the well-known mark of the 20th Legion, L. XX. VV.

Manchester.—For some time past workmen have been employed in building a wall fronting the dyeworks of Mr. Owen at the bottom of Medlock-street. The wall was being erected on some arches which formed part of the dyeworks, and on Wednesday one of the workmen discovered symptoms of weakness and decay in one of the arches, and in a few hours after both arches fell in.——Messrs. Howard and Atkinson, of St. Mary's-street, have presented to the Peel's-park Library and Museum a fountain, as an ornament to the library room. The fountain is about 4 feet high, and consists of a square grey granite vase, the pedestal and the column which support the basin being ornamental metalwork, of a floral pattern, painted in imitation of scagliola. The fountain is self-acting.

Preston.—The local Board of Health, it appears, have lately appointed a committee to obtain a better and cheaper supply of water to the town. Should the company demur to the terms of the committee, the latter, says the local *Guardian*, will at once proceed to call in an inspector under the Health of Towns Act, as a first step to placing the supply of water in the hands of the local board. The attention of the local board is now also being directed to the gas monopoly.

Bolton.—Some of the local poor-law guardians, backed by a poor-law inspector, propose to have a new workhouse erected for the whole of the Bolton Union. The infirmary, too, is said to be much in want of enlargement, which is advocated in the local *Chronicle*.

Leeds.—The committee of the Leeds Gas Companies have determined that from the commencement of the current half-year the price of gas should be reduced from 4s. 6d. to 4s. per thousand cubic feet, with the usual scale of discounts to large consumers. In the circular just issued, announcing this reduction, they also inform their customers that any surplus beyond the dividends, as limited by Act of Parliament, will be applied to a further reduction in the price. It would be well for all other companies to take an example by enlightened enterprise such as this. Had this been the rule in place of the exception from the commencement, there would have been no agitation for cheap and good gas; as, to insist on willing and reasonable, as well as far-seeing, companies such as these seem to be, reducing their price at once or precipitately to the minimum, would be most unreasonable.

Huddersfield.—There is a stir here at present in extending the town, knocking down obstacles in the way, and effecting general street improvements.

Filey.—The spirit of improvement is here also at work, as indeed it has been for some years; but since last season the movement has been increased by the completion of a very extensive promenade and pleasure grounds, which have been laid out in front of the crescent by Mr. J. W. Unett: a number of first-class houses have also been erected, and other improvements made.

Edinburgh.—It appears that notwithstanding the outcry about the removal of an ancient landmark, John Knox's house, and the offers to restore it, the building is still in so tottering and dangerous a condition as to require that a portion of it should be immediately pulled down.

Miscellaneous.—The new waterworks at Pontypool are nearly completed. —— Ringwood, near Romsey, is about to be lighted with gas.——The Worcester New Gas light Company have recently reported a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. for the last half-year.

CHURCHES, CHAPELS, AND SCHOOLS.

Gwenwylth, near Wrexham.—The new church here was consecrated on Friday, the 25th ult., by the Lord Bishop of St. Asaph. The site was the gift of the Rev. Robert Wickham, vicar of the parish (Gresford). The church is in the Early English style, and consists of nave, 66 feet by 30 feet; chancel, 24 feet by 17 feet; south porch, 11 feet by 9 feet; vestry, 13 feet by 13 feet, at the angle formed by the east wall of nave and the north wall of chancel, over which is a tower and broach spire, 100 feet high, surmounted by a vane. It will accommodate 400 persons. The roofs are open timbered deal, and stained dark oak, the principals springing from carved stone corbels 7 feet below the level of inner wall-plate. The benches are open, with sloping backs and moulded stall-ends: they are deal varnished, but not stained. The doors, altar-rails, and communion-table are of Riga oak: the floors are English oak: the pulpit, reading-desk, and font are of Caen stone, of very chaste designs: the reredos is also of stone. The east window, the gift of Mrs. Williams, of Gwenwylth Park; and the south chancel window, the gift of Thomas Penson, Esq., of Gwenwylth Hills, are by Wailes, of Newcastle. The designs were furnished by Mr. Thomas Penson, architect, and carved by Mr. Ebenezer Thomas, at a cost of 2,300*l.*

Barnwell.—The chancel of the church of St. Andrew has recently undergone a partial restoration, under the direction of Mr. G. G. Scott, architect. We are indebted to the *Northampton Herald* for the following particulars:—The east window, which is of considerable size (containing now 135 superficial feet of glass), was half blocked up with stone *panelling*: the remainder was glazed with square panes of common glass, between four crossed mullions, all tracery in the head of the windows having vanished. The side windows of the chancel being perpendicular in style, it was deemed advisable to insert a perpendicular window in the east end, of the full size, the stone-work of which has been executed by Mr. Rippiner, of Oundle. The tracery is copied exactly from that which still exists in the window of the chancel of the ruined church of Barnwell All Saints, the adjoining parish. It has been filled with Powell's quarried glass, surrounded by a narrow blue border. Below the window a moulding has been carried across the whole east wall, and a reredos of tiles, manufactured by Messrs. Minton, has been erected. The border of these tiles is blue and white. Proceeding westward, the chancel was blocked up by two pews, higher even than those which still remain in the nave. These have been replaced by carved seats, placed stallwise along the walls on each side. The carpentering was done by Mr. Gann, of Oundle. The more elaborate parts of the carving were executed in London by Mr. Mitchell. Much remains to be done.

Hartwell.—A new church was to be consecrated here on the 8th inst. The old chapel was in a most ruinous state. The new church is after a design by Messrs. Vickers and Hugal. The building was so far under the direction of the Architectural Society that, at their suggestion, the style of the old chapel was preserved, even the pillars being moved into the new church. There is still a deficiency in the funds.

Hawnes (Bedford).—The re-opening of Hawnes church is announced by the *Bedford Times* to have taken place on 17th ult. This edifice consisted before of a chancel, nave, and south aisle, with a tower at the west end. A new aisle has now been added on the north

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